

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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R 062050Z OCT 76
FM AMCONSUL WINNIPEG
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1723

UNCLAS WINNIPEG 433

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, SENV, CA
SUBJECT: AMSPEC - JOHN BOK

REF: OTTAWA 3695

1. CONFERENCE FOR WHICH AMSPEC REQUESTED IN TITLED LAND USE CONFERENCE WHICH BEING ORGANIZED BY UNION OF MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES -- A LOOSELY KNIT AGRICULTURAL UNION SOMEWHAT LIKE THE AMERICAN NATIONAL FARMERS UNION. CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN BRANDON, MANITOBA (2 1/2 HOUR DRIVE FROM WINNIPEG) ON NOVEMBER 23 - 25.
2. PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS ABOUT CONFERENCE HAD BEEN WITH THE THEN MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, HOWARD PAWLEY WHO IN RECENT CABINET SHUFFLE TURNED THAT PORTFOLIO TO WILLIAM URUSKI. WHEREAS FOCUS OF CONFERENCE WILL BE ON THE USE AND ASSESSMENT OF AGRICULTURAL LAND TO WHICH WE BELIEVE JOHN BOK COULD HAVE MADE A VERY WORTHWHILE CONTRIBUTION, THE CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS HAVE NOW REQUESTED A PROMINENT AMERICAN SPEAKER TO MAKE A PRESENTATION ON THE GARRISON DIVERSION PROJECT WHICH IS OF GREAT CONCERN TO MANITOBA FARMERS. IN FACT, THEY HAVE OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY TO DELIVER A MAJOR ADDRESS TO THE PARTICIPANTS WHO NUMBER MORE THAN 1200 AT 4 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 24. THEY SUGGEST AN ADDRESS OF 30 MINUTES FOLLOWED BY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. FURTHERMORE THEY HOPE THAT U.S. SPEAKER COULD PRESENT USG POSITION ON GARRISON PROJECT, AND BE FAMILIAR ENOUGH WITH THE PROJECT TO RESPOND TO DETAILED QUESTIONS.

3. WHILE WE REALIZE THIS IS A CONSIDERABLE CHANGE FROM THE

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ORIGINAL TOPIC, AND SUSPECT THAT JOHN BOK WOULD NOT BE THE RIGHT

PERSON TO ADDRESS THIS QUESTION, WE HOPE EMBASSY AND/OR DEPARTMENT
CAN COME UP WITH THE RIGHTPERSON TO TAKE ADVANTAGE
OF THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY.

4. SINCE PROGRAM WILL BE GOING TO PRESS IN THE NEAR FUTURE, HOPE
EMB/DEPT CAN RESPOND, AT LEAST IN PRINCIPLE, BY NEXT WEEK.
HUTSON

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